

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL C. MILLS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Russell C. Mills, who recently retired from his post as State conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Mr. Mills, a friend of long standing, is well respected by all who know him. He holds a BS degree in agriculture from Ohio State University and an MPA from the University of Missouri—Columbia. He has served with NRCS since 1957 as a Student Trainee, Soil Conservationist, and District and Area Conservationist in Ohio. He was also the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Deputy State Conservationist in Missouri. He is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association, and the Missouri Chapter of the Americans Wildlife Society.

Mr. Mills performed his tasks admirably, earning the Conservation Federation of Missouri's 1989 Professional Conservationist Award, Missouri Conservation Commission's 1990 Conservationist of the Year Award, and Missouri Farm Bureau's 1990 Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award.

As Russell Mills pursues other endeavors, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and to wish him my sincerest best wishes for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable prescheduled speaking engagement, I missed votes on Thursday, July 20 and Friday, July 21, 1995. If I had been here I would have voted:

NAY on rollcall vote 547—reduced finance sales of U.S. commodities to developing countries

YEA on rollcall vote 548—prohibited funds appropriated for construction at Beltsville, MD, agriculture research center.

NAY on rollcall vote 549—would have increased funds for Rural Development Performance Partnership Program, cutting salaries for those who assist livestock producers if crop insurance was not purchased.

NAY on rollcall vote 550—cut Commodity Credit Corporation's Market Promotion Program.

NAY on rollcall vote 551—prohibited funds for Market Promotion Program being used for salaries or expenses.

NAY on rollcall vote 552—prohibited CCC funds for use in promotion of alcoholic beverages.

NAY on rollcall vote 553—prohibited bill's funds from being used for salaries or expenses to promote U.S. Mink Export Development Council.

YEA on rollcall vote 554—final passage of H.R. 1976—fiscal year 1996 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

I ask that these be inserted into the RECORD at the appropriate place.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation of vital importance to the District of Columbia in rebuilding the financial viability of the District. As my colleagues are well aware, the District is contending with a serious financial crisis. This bill allows the Mayor and the City Council to address some of the causes of the city's budget difficulties that are now outside of their reach with greater efficiency, flexibility, and fairness.

This bill has three provisions that accomplish these purposes. First, the bill gives the Mayor the authority to reduce the appropriation for the judicial branch of the District government, if such a reduction is necessary to balance the District's budget. The Congress previously empowered the District to take similar steps with other independent agencies, including the board of education. However, unlike the case at other agencies, the judicial branch savings may only be directed in the annual appropriation total, not on a line-item basis within the budget itself. Thus, this bill treats the budget of the courts differently in recognition of the separation of powers and the independence of the courts.

Second, the bill enables the District to decouple the rate of compensation for District of Columbia judges from that of Federal judges. No decrease in pay would occur, however. D.C. Superior Court and Court of Appeals judges are local, not Federal judges, and have no Federal jurisdiction. Because of home rule limitations, however, they are appointed by the President—though they are recommended by a panel of local residents. These local judges are paid entirely from the District budget, not from Federal funds. When District employees have taken pay cuts or had level pay for several years and very few have received raises, the judges serving the District have several times had increases in their salaries because their salaries are tied to the pay scale for Federal judges. To remedy this imbalance, the District of Columbia Council will determine the new rate of compensation for judges, as is usually the case with legislatures.

Third, the bill gives the District greater leverage and flexibility to accomplish savings in the negotiation of contracts, such as procurement contracts. Presently, such agreements can be negotiated only on an annual basis. As a result, the District cannot enter into multiyear agreements that often have better terms. Because such contracts require significant commitments they will be evaluated by the District of Columbia Council, and will require a council resolution, two-thirds vote of members present and voting. If for any reason, the funds are not appropriated during a subsequent year of the contract, the contract would be canceled, preventing the District from being bound unreasonably.

These components of the bill act together to strengthen the District's financial position. This bill is noncontroversial. Because it is an es-

sential ingredient of the District's financial discipline and recovery, I ask for support and passage at the earliest time.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT

The Congress gave the ability to reduce the budgets of independent agencies, including the Board of Education, if it is required to balance the District budget. However, this power did not include the District courts. This bill expands that power to include the budget of the District courts. This expansion of power does not affect the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches because it does not give the Mayor power over the judicial salaries, but only the budgets. The Mayor is required to notify the District of Columbia courts of any proposed reductions in their budget.

The bill also amends the Home Rule Act to allow the D.C. Council to establish the rate of compensation for judges in District of Columbia courts. This severs the tie of D.C. judges' salaries to those of federal judges.

Additionally, the bill allows the District to form multiyear contracts for goods and services in areas where funds are appropriated annually. If the funds are not appropriated in some subsequent year of the contract, the contract is cancelled or terminated. Costs of cancellation or termination are paid from sources limited to: appropriations available for the contract's performance; appropriations available for procurement of the acquisition type covered by the contract that is not obligated; funds appropriated for payment of such costs.

Any such contract will require support of the Council by resolution, a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. Further, the contracts will be made pursuant to criteria established by the Council.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS—DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1994

Section 1. Short title

Section 1(a) states that this Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Budget Efficiency Act of 1995".

Section 1(b) amends the relevant provisions of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act by adding the following:

The District of Columbia Self-Government and Government Reorganization Act provides that whenever in the District of Columbia Multiyear Financial Controls Act is referred to, the reference will be considered to be made to that section of other provision of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Government Reorganization Act.

Section 2. Budgetary control over independent agencies

Section 2(a): Section 2(a) amends Section 47-301(b) of the D.C. Code to include expenditures for District of Columbia Courts and the Board of Education the submission of the District's annual budget by adding the following section:

Section 47-301(b) of the D.C. Code provides that the budget submitted by the Mayor shall include, but is not limited to recommended expenditures at a reasonable level for the forthcoming fiscal year for the Council, the District of Columbia Courts, the Board of Education, the District of Columbia Auditor, the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia, the Public Service Commission, the Armory Board, and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure.

Section 2(c): Section 2(c) allows the Mayor to balance the budget by reducing the amount appropriated or otherwise made